

APPROVED: Meeting No. 44-96

ATTEST: *Paula Jewell*

MAYOR AND COUNCIL  
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND  
Meeting No. 37-96

October 14, 1996

The Mayor and Council of Rockville, Maryland, convened in General Session in the Council Chamber, Rockville City Hall, 111 Maryland Avenue, Rockville, Maryland, on October 14, 1996, at 7:30 p.m.

PRESENT

Mayor Rose G. Krasnow

Councilmember Robert E. Dorsey

Councilmember James T. Marrinan

Councilmember Glennon J. Harrison

Councilmember Robert J. Wright

In attendance: City Manager Rick Kuckkahn, City Clerk Paula Jewell and City Attorney Paul Glasgow.

Re: City Manager's Report

1. Rockville's 35th Annual Antique and Classic Car Show, which features more than 500 vintage cars, will line the field of the Rockville Civic Center Park on October 19th. This is an extremely popular event and it is suggested that attendees park at the Broome Middle School on Twinbrook Parkway and take the free shuttle buses to Civic Center Park.
2. Rockville's annual 5k and 10k runs take place on October 20, with the start and finish lines at the Montgomery College track, Rockville Campus. The wheelchair race begins at 7:45 a.m. followed by the simultaneous start of the 5k and 10k runs at 8:00

a.m. The event is sponsored by the City of Rockville Recreation and Parks Department, Racquet and Jog, Brooks Sports, Inc., and Hard Times Cafe.

3. "Imagine Rockville - Shaping the Future" was chosen by the Visioning Steering Committee as the name for the Visioning Process initiated by the Mayor and Council. There will be a variety of ways for everyone in Rockville to participate in this important process. Upcoming editions of Rockville Reports will spotlight the process and an "Imagine Rockville" telephone hotline has been set up on 315-6556.

4. The recently retooled recycling effort has been going extremely well. Residents will notice that their recycling bins are tipped neatly upside down in the place where they were left. The recycling crews have worked very hard to ensure that the recyclables are picked up on time and in an orderly fashion. Residents are reminded that brush and small limbs need to be bundled and tied together, preferably in 3-foot lengths. Mr. Kuckkahn said that this process would speed up the City's pick up of these materials and ultimately lower refuse rates.

5. The latest edition of Rockville Watch Update includes a Parent's Guide to Teenage Parties as well as some Halloween tips. Parents are reminded to have their children wear light colors and put reflective tape on their costumes. It is also recommended that parents try to make up the children's faces rather than wearing masks which can be uncomfortable and obstruct a child's vision.

6. Rockville's Community Services Day Kick-Off rally is scheduled for

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Saturday, October 26. Lockheed Martin will co-sponsor the rally at City Hall beginning at 8:30 a.m. The purpose of Community Services Day is to promote volunteerism through participation in community services projects and to also provide exposure to long-term volunteer opportunities. This year, the City will collaborate with Volunteer Partnership Montgomery in performing a series of projects in City parks and facilities.

7. Due to the Mayor and Council's support of Community Oriented Policing, the City was chosen to receive two awards from the Governor's Crime Prevention Award Program. The first is a Governor's Crime Prevention Award for law enforcement agencies and the second award was for performing residential and community security surveys.

9. Residents have probably noticed a lot of work going on in streams and valleys throughout the City. This is one of the environmentally oriented capitol improvement projects funded by the Mayor and Council to stabilize stream banks and reduce erosion. New, environmentally sensitive technology is being used, which includes natural materials like root wads, rock, rubble and enviromatts. Residents with questions about activities in their neighborhoods should contact the Public Works Department at 309-3220.

10. The City of Rockville and the F. Scott Fitzgerald Centennial Committee is presenting "Zelda By Herself," a reading that will take place at 8:00 p.m. on October 19 and at 2:00 p.m. on October 20 in the Recital Hall of the Music Building at Montgomery

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College's Rockville Campus. The reading will be followed by a moderated discussion. Admission is free; however, reservations are required. Call 251-7458 or 309-3304 for further information.

11. Two years ago, the City of Rockville had the pleasure of being the first city to be awarded the Martin Luther King, Jr. Federal Holiday Commission's "The Making of the King Holiday Award." This was a national tribute to the quality of Rockville's Martin Luther King, Jr. commemoration programs. In order to continue this level of program quality, the City, for the first time, will be relying on donations of support. There are three donor levels: Prime Benefactor, Patron, and Friend. Everyone interested is encourage to contact the Human Rights Commission at 309-3388 for further information.

Re: Proclamation Recognizing  
October 13-19, 1996 as  
**CHARACTER COUNTS  
WEEK.**

Proclamation No. 23-96

By a unanimous vote of the Mayor and Council, October 13-19, 1996 was declared "CHARACTER COUNTS WEEK " in Rockville. Upon the request of the Mayor, Councilmember Wright read the Proclamation, the full text of which can be found in the 1996 Proclamation File of the Mayor and Council. The Proclamation was presented to students from Thomas Wootton and Richard Montgomery High Schools involved in the Youth Stands Against Violence/Resolve II Program.

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Re: Proclamation Recognizing the  
commencement of the **1996  
ROCKVILLE HOLIDAY  
DRIVE** which will begin on  
October 14, 1996.

Proclamation No. 24-96

By a unanimous vote of the Mayor and Council, October 14, 1996 was recognized as the commencement of the Rockville Holiday Drive in Rockville. Upon the request of the Mayor, Councilmember Dorsey read the Proclamation, the full text of which can be found in the 1996 Proclamation File of the Mayor and Council. The Proclamation was presented to representatives of the Rockville Junior Chamber of Commerce, Computer Data Systems, Manna Food Center, and Mount Calvary Baptist Church. Sharon Stevens, on behalf of Computer Data Systems, then presented the Mayor and Council with a \$1,000 check to kick off the 1996 Holiday Drive. CDSI employees sponsored a golf tournament to raise the donations for the Holiday Drive.

Re: Welcome to students from  
Mathius Claudius School in  
Pinneberg, Germany who are on  
an exchange visit October 8-29,  
1996.

The Mayor and Council welcomed twelve students and two teachers (Ruth Gorlitz and Monica Schiwek) from the Mattheus-Claudius School in Pinneberg, Germany. The students are taking part in an exchange program between the Sister Cities of Pinneberg and Rockville. The students are living with host families and are spending

weekdays visiting Washington, D.C., Annapolis, and Harpers Ferry. Mrs. Schiwek made a few remarks, and on behalf of the Pinneberg students, thanked the Rockville host families for their hospitality.

Re: Citizens Forum - This time is set aside to hear from any citizen who wishes to address the Mayor and Council.

1. Mary Biswell, representing Potomac Nursery School (PNS), said the Nursery School had been leasing space at the City's Rockville Senior Center for thirteen years. She said they learned that the school would lose their lease as of July 1997. PNS requested that the Rockville Seniors, Inc. Board of Directors extend the lease; however, they were turned down. PNS was notified by the Senior Center Survey Panel that the seniors were crowded at the Senior Center and needed the three rooms currently occupied by the nursery school. Ms. Biswell distributed packets of information containing correspondence between the school and RSI. She requested that the Mayor and Council grant the nursery school an appeal to RSI's decision and to also grant a one-year (or more) extension of their lease. Ms. Biswell said that the nursery school questioned the seniors' need for additional space, because she said that PNS conducted their own informal survey which indicated that many of the Senior Center rooms were empty and under utilized.

2. Lucy Hudson, Nursery School Parent said that her son attended the Potomac Nursery School since 1994, and the school provided a wonderful program that her son and her family have benefitted from. She expressed her support for continuing the nursery

school program at the Senior Center.

3. Beatrice Baker, former Rockville Seniors, Inc. Board Member, expressed her support for allowing the nursery school to continue its program at the Senior Center. She said that although the Board had recommended not extending the school's lease, she was a dissenting member on the Board's decision.

4. Virginia Onley, Chairperson, Senior Citizens Commission explained the process undertaken by the Study Panel, which she said included both Senior Commission and RSI members. The decision to end the PNS lease resulted after months of study and a survey which generated more than 1,000 responses from Rockville residents. Residents felt that additional space was needed in order to expand services for a computer lab, additional exercise room, and a game room. Ms. Onley also noted that the Senior Center staff was also crowded in their current space--one staff member's office also doubled as a storage room.

5. Estelle Berberian, Senior Citizens Commission Member, said that the seniors have also enjoyed having the PNS children at the Senior Center. She said that while there have been some intergenerational activities, there have not been many such programs. Ms. Berberian said that she did not believe that PNS fully understood how the seniors were crowded. She said that exercise equipment was in the same room as the pool tables because there was no other location to put it. She gave other examples of over-crowding, including the need for parking spaces currently used by PNS.

The Mayor and Council asked that the City Manager provide the following:

- Copies of the Study Panel report and recommendations
  - An analysis of the impact on senior programs if the lease were to be extended for one additional year.
  - Assistance to Potomac Nursery School in locating another space in the City.
6. William Meyer, 804 Leverton Road thanked the Mayor and Council and

staff who participated in the October 5th walk through the Hungerford-Stoneridge neighborhood. The walk provided a great opportunity for residents to discuss issues of concern and he looked forward to staff's responses on the issues raised.

Regarding Consent Agenda Item E, Mr. Meyer said that at an earlier meeting, the Mayor and Council approved a utility easement for three units at the Tower Oaks subdivision. He questioned whether the authorization currently before the Mayor and Council was authorization for additional units. Mayor Krasnow said the September 9th meeting, the Mayor and Council were informed that there might be two additional units needing a release of the utility easement. However, it turned out that there was only one additional unit, for a total of four units.

Regarding the Potomac Nursery School issue, Mr. Meyer said that he hoped the Mayor and Council could find a way to accommodate the school. Mr. Meyer said that it was bad timing to force out one caregiver for another "caregiver" in a publicly owned facility, especially while the City was embarking on a Visioning process. He suggested



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that staff look at how much revenue would be lost by not extending the school's lease.

Mr. Meyer also suggested that staff consider installing temporary trailers to use as additional space for the seniors or the school.

7. Marty Mitchell, representing Mitchell & Best at Woottons Mill (Developers of the Veirs Property). Regarding Agenda Items 13 through 15, Mr. Mitchell clarified that the 3,574 square feet being conveyed from the City would allow for the straightening of a property line to improve the lot. He said that the conveyance was being made in exchange for approximately one-half acre of Parcel C which would be used as City park land, as well as a quarter of an acre in Parcel A, which would also go to the City. Mr. Mitchell explained the other related items and said that the developer would reforest the area at the end of the project. However, in the meantime, they would set up their sediment control devices so that they could grade out on the back of the lots just over the edge of the property. He said that this was a temporary grading easement. Regarding Agenda Item 15, Mr. Mitchell explained that the storm drain easement on Parcel C was created when the Rockshire subdivision was developed. Up to this point, no storm drain had been installed in the area. The developers will be routing their storm drain in a different manner down to the Aintree facility and to their bioretention facility on the Parcel.

Re: Appointments

Upon motion of Councilmember Marrinan, duly seconded and unanimously

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passed, Patrick Shurney was appointed to the Economic Development Council.

Upon motion of Councilmember Dorsey, duly seconded and unanimously passed, Claudia Segal was reappointed to serve on the Human Rights Commission.

Re: Approval of Minutes

Upon motion of Councilmember Dorsey, duly seconded and passed by a vote of 4 to 0 (Councilmember Harrison abstained as he was absent from the meeting), the Minutes of Meeting No. 33-96 (August 5, 1996) were approved as written.

Upon motion of Councilmember Wright, duly seconded and unanimously passed, the Minutes of Meeting No. 34-96 (September 9, 1996) were approved as written.

Re: Consent Agenda

Councilmember Wright requested removal of Consent Agenda Item E.

Upon motion of Councilmember Harrison, duly seconded and unanimously passed, the following Consent Agenda items were approved:

- (A) Award Request for Proposal No. 29-97  
To: Consumer Dental Care Plan  
Of: Calverton, Maryland  
In the amount of: \$32,100.00

For: An initial contract period of one year, for closed-panel Dental Maintenance Organization option with the option to extend for two (2) additional one-year periods at the discretion of the City Manager.

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- (B) Award of Bid #32-97  
 To: Trans Metro Construction  
 Of: Upper Marlboro, Maryland  
 In the amount of: \$225,266  
  
For: Replacement of City Parks Play Equipment.
- (C) Award of Contract  
 To: Softrans, Inc.  
 Of: Fairfax, Virginia  
 In the amount of: \$30,000  
  
For: Data communications consulting per the terms and conditions of June 1994 contract with WSSC, extended through September 1997.
- (D) Approval of Environmental Consultant Services - Joint Procurement on Montgomery County contract.  
 To: Woodward-Clyde Consulting Engineers  
 Of: Gaithersburg, Maryland  
 In the amount of: \$140,000  
  
For: Watershed Study and Management Plan for the Rock Creek Watershed.
- (F) Introduction of Ordinance to Levy Special Assessments for Driveway Aprons constructed in Fiscal Year 1996. The City performed 21 driveway apron jobs requested by the residents. The assessable cost is \$15,967.01.
- Re: (E) Authorization for partial release of utility easement area at Tower Oaks subdivision.

Councilmember Wright said that staff worked out the costs associated with the amount of time spent by the City to address the easement releases. The cost resulted in \$2,346 per developer, per issue. Mr. Wright said that the Release of Easement Agreement only stipulated the sum of One Dollar, and he asked how the City would collect \$2,346. City Attorney Paul Glasgow explained that the Agreement was prepared earlier and the one dollar sum was considered a nominal consideration for legal contract purposes. Mr. Glasgow said that the Mayor and Council could insert the suggested amount into the Agreement. Public Works Director Hal Cranor confirmed that staff was developing procedures with the City's Inspection Services Division to insure that encroachment on City easements did not occur again. Upon motion of Councilmember Wright, duly seconded and unanimously passed, the consideration sum in the Release of Easement Agreement was amended to read "two thousand, three-hundred forty six dollars." Upon motion of Councilmember Wright, duly seconded and unanimously passed, the partial release of utility easement area at Tower Oaks subdivision was authorized. In response to a question from Councilmember Harrison, Mr. Cranor clarified that the consideration sum would apply to all four of the units.

Re: Adoption of Resolution to  
Enlarge the Corporate  
Boundaries of the City of  
Rockville - Annexation Petition  
ANX96-0122, Alice Kelly,  
Petitioner.

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Resolution No. 15-96

Upon motion of Councilmember Marrinan, duly seconded and unanimously passed, the Resolution to enlarge the corporate boundaries of the City of Rockville by annexation of 3.86407 acres of land, more or less, located on Dover Road south of Gude Drive, was adopted. A copy of the Resolution may be found in Resolution Book No. 11 of the Mayor and Council.

Re: Introduction of Ordinance to amend the Zoning Map by adding 3.86407 acres of land, more or less, of Alice Kelly and Montgomery County, Maryland, and placing said property in the I-1, Service Industrial Zone.

To establish zoning of approximately 3.6 acres on Dover Road south of Gude Drive.

Upon motion of Councilmember Harrison, duly seconded and unanimously passed, the Ordinance was introduced. The Ordinance will be brought back for adoption on October 28, 1996.

Re: Introduction of Resolution to Enlarge the Corporate Boundaries of the City of Rockville - Annexation Petition ANX96-0123, First Union Bank, Eastern Diversified Properties, Petitioner.

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To enlarge the corporate boundaries of the City of Rockville to include 5.66 acres of land, more or less, of First Union National Bank and Eastern Diversified Properties and Montgomery County, Maryland.

Upon motion of Councilmember Wright, duly seconded and unanimously passed, the Resolution was introduced.

Re: Adoption of Resolution to Set Public Hearing Date - Annexation Petition ANX96-0123, First Union Bank, Eastern Diversified Properties, Petitioner.

Resolution No. 15-96

Upon motion of Councilmember Harrison, duly seconded and unanimously passed, the Resolution to provide for a public hearing on January 21, 1997, in connection with the Annexation Petition ANX96-0123, was adopted. A copy of the Resolution may be found in Resolution Book No. 11 of the Mayor and Council.

Re: Adoption of Ordinance to Grant Text Amendment Application TXT96-0156, Mayor and Council of Rockville, Applicant.

To amend Section 25-18 of the Zoning Ordinance to permit monopoles that are located on

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City-owned property to exceed the height limit for the zone in which they are located.

Ordinance No. 14-96

Councilmember Harrison suggested that in 1997, the Mayor and Council take a comprehensive look at telecommunications in the City and to also consider the use of monopoles and other telecommunication issues. Mayor Krasnow commented that she has seen many national articles on the telecommunications issue. Director of Community Development, Neal Herst said that staff is keeping up with the issue and were taking advantage of the opportunities on the World Wide Web to gather more information. Mayor Krasnow said that the City should work more closely with the County to stay abreast of where they are on the telecommunications issue.

Greg Diamond, Bell Atlantic Representative, expressed his support of Text Amendment TXT96-0156. Mr. Diamond said that Bell Atlantic/Nynex resubmitted the Special Exception application, SPX96-0243, to be heard in early November. Mr. Diamond reminded the Mayor and Council that Bell Atlantic/Nynex would still need a setback waiver of 15 feet to accommodate the 180 foot pole on the Redgate Golf Course site. The Mayor and Council decided to address the 15 foot waiver request at the October 28 General Session.

Upon motion of Councilmember Wright, duly seconded and unanimously passed, the Ordinance granting Text Amendment Application No. TXT96-0156, was

adopted. A copy of the Ordinance may be found in Ordinance Book No. 19 of the Mayor and Council.

Re: Discussion and Instructions to Staff - Application to Close and Abandon Public Way SCA96-0074, Rockville Center, Inc., Applicant.

To close and abandon a portion of Mall Turnaround, Ramp Road and Truck Street in the Mid-City Urban Renewal Project area.

Nancy Regelin, Attorney representing Rockville Center, Inc., said that the applicant consented to the condition that a Public Utility Easement, acceptable to all utility providers, be recorded. The Mayor and Council instructed staff to bring forth the Ordinance at the October 28, 1996 General Session.

Re: Agenda Items 13-15

13. Adoption of Resolution to convey title of approximately 3,574 square feet of Woottons Mill Park to Mitchell & Best at Woottons Mill LLC in order to accommodate the subdivision and development of adjacent property known as the "Veirs Property."

To authorize an exchange of real property between the Mayor and Council of Rockville, Barbara Veirs, and Mitchell & Best at Woottons Mill LLC, in connection with the



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development of the Veirs property  
development of the Veirs property  
adjacent to Woottons Mill Park.

14. Approval of temporary easement to Mitchell & Best at Wootton's Mill LLC in order to accommodate the subdivision and development of adjacent property known as the "Veirs Property."
15. Authorization for abandonment of storm drain easement on Alvin B. and Barbara S. Veirs' property.

Mayor Krasnow announced that the next three Agenda Items would be considered together as they were all related. Mr. Kuckkahn said that staff was satisfied that the easements were no longer necessary. They felt that the exchange of land was appropriate, the geometry for the park site was good, and the conveyances were a win-win situation for both the developer and the City. The City would receive some valuable park property and the developer would receive some geometric advantage to his lots in order to use them more efficiently.

Councilmember Marrinan asked staff to provide some background about the future of the Veirs House as a historic entity. Mr. Herst explained that the Historic District Commission was still working through the process of historic district designation and other related issues. However, the developer and the City reached an understanding to let the existing house remain in place. Staff will give the Mayor and Council some background about how this was handled. Mr. Marrinan questioned how the neighbors

reacted to the issue of the storm water management facility at the end of Barclay Court. Recreation and Parks Department Director Burt Hall said that the Barclay Court residents were aware that the bioretention facility would be built. Several meetings were held on-site and they were well attended by Barclay Court residents.

Mr. Hall confirmed that Parcel A would be planted with trees and used to meet the developer's afforestation requirement as part of the development. In addition, Parcel C would contain the storm water management facility which was also a requirement that the developer had to meet. Although the City was picking up public park land, the use of the park land fit into the development. Mr. Hall said that staff felt that these were quality uses. The forest land would be a nice addition to the backyard of the two lots which backed up to Parcel A and would also be a nice addition to the park land, as well as to the residents on Gerard Street. Staff and the neighbors both felt that the use of Parcel C for the bioretention facility was an acceptable and attractive use, as well as one that performed a needed function.

Councilmember Wright said that it needed to be clear that the reforestation on Parcel A and the bioretention facility on Parcel C would be paid for by the developer, even though the City was taking ownership of these parcels.

Re: Adoption of Resolution to convey title of approximately 3,574 square feet of Woottons Mill Park to Mitchell & Best at Woottons Mill LLC in order to accommodate the subdivision and

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development of adjacent property known as the "Veirs Property."

To authorize an exchange of real property between the Mayor and Council of Rockville, Barbara Veirs, and Mitchell & Best at Woottons Mill LLC, in connection with the development of the Veirs property development of the Veirs property adjacent to Woottons Mill Park.

Resolution No. 17-96

Upon motion of Councilmember Wright, duly seconded and unanimously passed, the Resolution to convey title of real property between the Mayor and Council of Rockville, Barbara Veirs, and Mitchell & Best at Woottons Mill LLC, was adopted. A copy of the Resolution may be found in Resolution Book No. 11 of the Mayor and Council.

Re: Approval of temporary easement to Mitchell & Best at Wootton's Mill LLC in order to accommodate the subdivision and development of adjacent property known as the "Veirs Property."

At Mayor Krasnow's request, Mr. Hall explained that considerable grading was necessary to meet the development requirements. In order to perform the grading operation and to place sediment control devices, Mr. Hall said that the developer needed to access part of the City's land in order for the grades to meet properly as grading

occurred. Mr. Hall said that in the past, the City had not recommended approval of grading easements where a forested parcel was involved. However, in this case, there was open land and the project would not involve the removal of trees. Staff felt that the project would have no long term negative effect on the park land. Upon motion of Councilmember Wright, duly seconded and unanimously passed, the temporary grading easement was approved.

Re: Authorization for abandonment  
of storm drain easement on  
Alvin B. and Barbara S. Veirs'  
property.

Mr. Kuckkahn reiterated his point that the easements were no longer necessary; they were remnants of the former subdivision and staff was recommending that the Mayor and Council authorize the abandonment of the 1971 easement. Upon motion of Councilmember Marrinan, duly seconded and unanimously passed, the authorization was approved.

Re: Presentation of White Tailed  
Deer Management Policy.

Discussion and Instructions to  
Staff regarding implementation  
of the Policy.

Recreation and Parks Director Burt Hall said that during the past several years, concerns have been raised by residents about the substantial increase in the white tailed deer population. A primary concern to residents is the destruction of landscaped

plants and vegetable gardens on private properties, as well as the rise in vehicle accidents involving deer. Mr. Hall noted recent statistics concerning deer activity in the City. He said that in response to the Mayor and Council's request, a White Tailed Deer Management policy was developed by City staff. The objective was to establish criteria and methods for managing the increasing impact of the deer on public and private land within the City limits. The policy was developed by Recreation and Parks Department staff, with assistance from the Police Department's Neighborhood Services Division. The recommendations contained in the policy also were developed in close consultation with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources as well as Montgomery County and Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning officials. Mr. Hall also said that the policy was approved by the City's Recreation and Park Advisory Board in September. He then pointed out the highlights of the proposed policy:

(1) The City will practice an attitude of acceptance of, and tolerance for the deer activity as part of the City's natural environment and will foster this attitude among the public through education.

(2) The City will monitor and evaluate the success and failure of the Montgomery County Comprehensive Management Plan for White Tailed Deer.

(3) The first recommended control measure will be those of exclusion, the use of repellents, and the use of undesirable plants. It is the responsibility of private property owners to take reasonable steps to exclude problem wildlife from their land; the City will

initiate a public education program, including videos and brochures.

(4) A survey of the white tailed deer population in and around the City will be made to determine if populations are straining the carrying capacity of the environment.

(5) Based on the findings of the survey, population control measures may be required. A direct reduction controlled hunt may be implemented, utilizing specially certified and permitted shooters. Other management actions may be considered in lieu of a controlled hunt.

(6) The City will utilize the Montgomery County Comprehensive Management Plan for white tailed deer as a guideline for general management within the City.

Mr. Hall then introduced City Horticulturist Rob Orndorff who also serves as the City's expert on deer management policy. Mr. Hall and Mr. Orndorff responded to the Mayor and Council's questions.

Mr. Kuckkahn explained that there were a variety of ways to control the deer population through the use of a controlled hunt. However, he stressed that before any thought was given to controlled hunts, staff would certainly bring the issue to the Mayor and Council beforehand. Mr. Kuckkahn said that staff will pursue the White Tailed Deer Management Policy. As additional information is gained from the studies and surveys, these findings will be presented to the Mayor and Council.

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Re: Correspondence

1. Councilmember Wright said that the Mayor and Council received a letter dated 10/9/96 from MCI Telecommunications. MCI will be taking actions to ensure that their orange markers noting the location of fibre optic wires in the City will be placed flush with the ground. Councilmember Wright thanked Deputy City Manager Novak who worked with MCI on the issue, and he thanked MCI for their willingness to place the markers flush with the ground.

Re: New Business

1. Councilmember Harrison asked that staff provide televised cable coverage of the October 21st Worksession regarding the Watts Branch Sewer Alternatives Analysis.

2. Councilmember Marrinan noted that Columbus Day was a Federal holiday, and certain ethnic groups consider it a day of celebration. He asked whether there was any desire on the part of Mayor and Council to consider holding their General Sessions on a Tuesday evening when Federal holidays fall on a Monday night, as Columbus Day did this year. Councilmember Harrison said that if this were to happen, consideration might have to be made for employees to have a day off since Columbus Day was not a City recognized holiday for employees. Mayor Krasnow said that the Mayor and Council did try to be sensitive about holding General Sessions on holidays. She suggested that the Mayor and Council meetings continue to be held on Monday evenings when the holiday is not one recognized by the City. She also said that it might be better to wait and see if the

City receives any feedback about the General Sessions taking place on the Columbus Day holiday.

3. Mayor Krasnow noted that the Mayor and Council's Walking Town Meetings would start up again in March 1997. Citizens interested in having the Mayor and Council visit their neighborhoods, should contact Deputy City Manager Julia Novak at 309-3300.

4. Mayor Krasnow commented on a Caregivers Coalition Meeting she recently attended. She said that she was distressed to hear the results of the new Welfare Bill. Mayor Krasnow said that the new Bill was disastrous for Montgomery County and the City of Rockville because the amount of money available will be drastically reduced and the number of people needing assistance from the City would continue to increase. Mayor Krasnow said that the Mayor and Council are hoping to address the issue later in the year. She reminded residents that they could, through the use of their water bills, make a contribution to the City's emergency assistance program (REAP). Councilmember Marrinan said that the City might want to consider, in the near future, a public advocacy role, either through the National League of Cities, the Maryland Municipal League, or through the City's federally elected officials.

5. Councilmember Dorsey said that he was recently appointed to the Maryland Gives Committee. Mr. Dorsey said that it was emphasized at the Committee's first meeting, that the majority of "giving" comes from individuals since many corporations



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were increasingly backing away from making donations.

6. General Election Ballot Question C - The Ficker Amendment - Mayor Krasnow suggested that the Mayor and Council take a position to oppose the Ficker amendment--a proposal calling for a mandatory roll back of taxes in Montgomery County. The amendment would have a negative impact on the City of Rockville's revenues and on many of the services provided by Montgomery County. Upon motion of Mayor Krasnow, duly seconded and unanimously passed, the Mayor Council voted to oppose Question C. Staff was asked to publicize the Mayor and Council action and to make note that Rockville would lose between \$200,000 - \$300,000. The County would lose an even greater amount, resulting in a possible loss of services or an increase in other taxes or fees for all residents.

Re: Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Mayor and Council, the meeting was adjourned at 10:01 p.m., to convene again in Worksession at 7:30 p.m. on October 21, 1996, or at the call of the Mayor.